

11 February 2022

C145789

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Office of the Ombudsman  
Contact person: Rachel Barnett  
Sent via email to: [OPCAT@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:OPCAT@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Tēnā koe Peter

**Final Optional Protocol for the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) follow up inspection report – Otago Corrections Facility**

Thank you for your letter dated 22 December 2021, informing the Department of Corrections that you have considered our previous feedback and inviting us to make any necessary changes to the recommendation table you provided. Please see attached for the updated table in which we note if we accept, partially accept, or decline your recommendations.

Of the 18 final recommendations made, we have accepted 16 and partially accepted two. In our response to your provisional recommendations, I advised that work had been completed or commenced in relation to all the accepted recommendations since the time of your inspection. I am pleased to note that work is continuing to progress in these areas.

I am pleased of the good work that Otago Corrections Facility and Corrections have accomplished, especially in the face of the unique challenges that COVID-19 has presented.

As an example, we have refined our Use of Force review process nation-wide to ensure appropriate documentation is completed to a high standard. This will allow the prison director to make appropriate recommendations so we can reflect on and learn from each incident. Otago Corrections Facility have also developed an ongoing process to analyse use of force data to identify trends and opportunities for practice changes.

Additionally, late last year, Otago Corrections Facility developed a process to ensure men who are not well enough to represent themselves are still heard in their Multi-Disciplinary team meetings. Men in the Intervention and Support Unit are able to appoint an advocate, such as a trusted staff member, who will work with them to identify their needs and raise them at the Multi-Disciplinary team meetings.

I am very proud of this work and acknowledge there is still more to be done.

Thank you for the feedback provided in this report. We will use your recommendations to implement improvements at Otago Corrections Facility in alignment with the vision captured in Hōkai Rangi: *Kotahi anō te kaupapa: ko te oranga o te iwi – There is only one purpose to our work: the wellness and wellbeing of people.*

I trust you find our responses to your recommendations useful. I look forward to the publication of your final report.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a smaller 'L' and a trailing flourish.

Jeremy Lightfoot  
Chief Executive